

August 2013



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Alabama FSA State Updates

Alabama FSA State Office

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State Executive Director:
Daniel Robinson

State Committee Members:
Dr. Walter Hill, Chairperson
Laura Elliott, Member
Danny Ellison, Member
George Hodge, Member
Fred Hughes, Member

Next Tentative State Committee Meeting:
October 8-9, 2013

NAP Coverage Deadline Reminder

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all applicable NAP crops must be purchased prior to the application closing date for the crop. Several Alabama crops have application closing dates of September 1, 2013, including, but not limited to, aquaculture, Christmas trees, honey, turf grass sod, ginseng root, onions, eggplant, finfish, and grasses for forage and grazing. September 30, 2013, is the application closing date for several varieties of grasses, barley, canola, oats, rye, strawberries, triticale, vetch, and wheat.

Cold Storage Facility Loans Available

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan Program allows producers to build cold storage facilities to store fresh fruits and vegetables. The facility may include prefabricated buildings suitable for storing and having a useful life of at least 15 years. The loan may also provide for permanently affixed cooling, circulating, and monitoring equipment, as well as electrical equipment including labor and materials for installation of lights, motors, and wiring integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility.

Note: Scales, portable equipment, used bins, and used equipment are not eligible for financing. Also, facilities built for commercial purposes and not for the sole use of the borrower are not eligible for financing.

For more information on this program or other FSA programs, please contact the local FSA county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>, then click on "Price Support" (left column), and then "Facility Loan Programs" (right column).

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included

in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-933 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>.

Disaster Assistance

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers that have recently experienced severe damage from flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs exist to aid producers.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

Fact sheets for all of these programs, as well as a listing of national disaster declarations can be found at the disaster assistance program page: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=landing>.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Upcoming USDA StrikeForce Event—FSA Microloan Workshop

An FSA Microloan Workshop will be held in Mobile, Alabama, on August 22, 2013, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Jon Archer Agricultural Center, located at 1070 Schillinger Rd., North. The microloan workshop will be held in conjunction with the Agricultural Risk Management and Business Development Workshop, which is sponsored by Alabama A&M University (AAMU) and Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Registration is requested. To register, contact the AAMU Small Farms Research Center at (256) 372-4958 or 1-866-858-4970. Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Amanda Ryan at 251-441-6505 or Amanda.ryan@al.usda.gov, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, by August 19, 2013.

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